



DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA

Virginia's Oldest Continuously Chartered Town
CHARTERED 1749 INCORPORATED 1961

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Cydney Neville, Director of Community Services

DATE: May 25, 2012

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

Priorities:

- Planning to implement the Dumfries Cares Program in July
- Fall Festival
- Town Farmers Market
- Summer Youth Employment Program Selection
- June Senior Luncheon-moved to June 29th
- Heart Health Event

Summer Youth Employment Program

The Summer Youth Employment Program is still in its final stage of planning. A Selection Committee has been put together, and began meeting on May 2nd. The application should be finalized by May 28th and shared with the community by May 28th. The deadline to apply will be June 13, and applicants will be notified by June 22nd.

Senior Luncheon

Thank you to the Police Department for hosting the May Senior Luncheon! Participants had a great time playing Bingo and eating barbeque with them!

Due to scheduling conflicts, the June luncheon will be held on June 29, 2012. This will be the final Senior Luncheon of the fiscal year, and will be held at Merchant's Park. During the June luncheon, seniors will enjoy: fresh barbecue (volunteers from Pillar Church will be our grill masters), and tours of Weems-Botts Museum!

Bike to Work/School Day

The Town of Dumfries served as a Pit Stop for Bike/Walk to work/School in May. This was the first time holding the events and they were not well attended. Next fiscal year, we hope to have built a presence for our events-including the smaller scaled ones such as this, and have more

participation in community events. We are growing, and I'm absolutely confident participation will improve in the future!

Parenting Class

The office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will be finishing their last STEP class at the Community Center on May 30th. There will be no summer classes, however; they are considering having more parenting classes in the Town, in the fall, delivered in Spanish.

English as a Second Language

The ESOL classes are still going strong, thanks to the partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County. Mrs. Sonia Hoehn has been doing an exceptional job as our volunteer teacher for this class, and is a pleasure to work with.

Kickball League

This league has been moved to a Fall League, due to low registrations. I will begin re-advertising this over the summer.

Movies on the Lawn

Through a community partnership with Pillar Church, the Town will be co-hosting "The Muppets" movie event at Garrison Park on June 9th! This event will be FREE for the community and will open for seating at 7pm. Guests are asked to bring blankets, lawn chairs, and snacks. The church will sell hotdogs and snacks for those interested.

Heart Health Event

This event is in the very early planning stages. It will be a Heart Healthy Symposium, co-sponsored by "Big Sis & Company." To date, the date of the event has been set for Saturday, July 14th. More details to follow in June.

Grants

I am pleased to announce that the Town of Dumfries has been approved for the DCJS federal grant to implement Dumfries Cares! Our package should be received in June and the Department of Community Services will make this a top priority, to implement the grant in the Town and deliver a mentoring program that our citizens can be proud of!

Farmers Market

The Department of Community Services has drafted a proposal for the Town's first Farmers Market! It is our hope to have all necessary items approved so that the Market can begin serving citizens on June 9th through October 27th!

Building a Presence for the Town of Dumfries

Building a Presence is a community engagement and awareness campaign that will help to create a presence and rekindle relationships within the Town, for citizens and those in surrounding communities. The goal of Building a Presence is that by the end of the next fiscal year, it will be expected for citizens and those in surrounding areas to look to Dumfries first when it comes to: finding family friendly activities, festivals to enjoy, community service events and programs. This will be an ongoing campaign, and if successful, all of our events will be well attended, and citizens will be well aware of what the Town of Dumfries has to offer.

Community Partnerships

- Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County-ESL classes (<https://sites.google.com/site/litvolpw/>)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension-PWC-Parenting classes, 4-H resource, nutrition resource (<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/prince-william/>)
- Mahogany Books-Kids Literature Corners at events (www.mahoganybooks.com)
- Big Sis & Company- (www.bigsisandcompany.net) This company is focused on domestic violence prevention. Their CEO was a guest speaker at the Town's Black History Month Celebration! They will be hosting a few domestic violence prevention programs in the community center. March-Today's Empowered Woman Conference.
- Sonia Hoehn-ESL Instructor, but has also donated children's books.
- Pillar Church-Movies on the Lawn, volunteers. (<http://www.pillardumfries.com/>)
- Weems Botts/Historic Dumfries-Mrs. Baron has given presentations at some of our Senior Luncheon's and was also a guest speaker at the Town's Black History Month Celebration. (www.historicdumfries.com)